

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MILPITAS  
IN SUPPORT OF RENEWAL OF THE  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARK CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund, which provides the primary mechanism for financing the Santa Clara County Parks System, was enacted in 1972 through a vote of the people and has since been consistently renewed by Santa Clara County voters, and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2005, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved submitting to the voters a proposed amendment for the renewal of the Park Charter Fund to be placed on the June 6, 2006 primary election ballot, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Park Charter Fund amendment would extend funding for the Santa Clara County Parks System through June 30, 2021, providing an assured financial base for park acquisition, development and operation without creating new taxes, and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County parklands, park facilities and programs are essential in meeting the current and future needs of County residents, and

WHEREAS, the Park Charter Fund contributes necessary funding to operate a "necklace of parks" that is one of the most diverse in all of California and consists of 28 regional parks, 45,000 acres and over 260 miles of trails located along the County's precious streams, lakes, foothills, mountains and other areas of outstanding natural beauty, and,

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara and the City of Milpitas have partnered to create a rich and diverse regional park and open space network and to improve the quality of life for Santa Clara County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Milpitas supports the renewal of the Park Charter Fund by the voters of Santa Clara County on June 6, 2006.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Lavelle, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jose S. Esteves, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven T. Mattas, City Attorney

## Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund Fact Sheet



Information provided by Yes on Parks!

Photo: Uvas Canyon County Park

### What is the Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund?

***The Park Charter Fund is not a new or additional tax – it simply requires that the County dedicate a small portion of existing property tax revenue for County Parks.*** Since 1972, Santa Clara County voters have demonstrated a commitment to County Parks through the establishment and renewal of the Park Charter Fund. County voters have approved the Park Charter Fund six times, most recently (1996) by an overwhelming 80%. The current set aside equates to less than 1% of the County's total budget and includes a mandate to acquire land to expand the regional park and trail network.

### Why is our Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund needed?

In the next 20 years, the County is projected to grow by another 400,000 residents to a population of over 2 million. The Park Charter Fund is vital to:

- ***Protect watersheds and preserve natural areas of outstanding scenic quality;***
- ***Assure that County Parks can meet the current and future needs of Santa Clara County residents; and***
- ***Contribute to the "quality of life" for County residents who want areas of natural beauty that are close to home, yet provide an escape from the pressures of urban life.***

### What are the benefits of our Park Charter Fund?

The Park Charter Fund provides a stable funding source for the Santa Clara County Parks system in order to provide an array of outstanding recreational opportunities while also protecting water quality and preserving areas of natural beauty. Today, the County Park system consists of 28 regional parks including urban parks such as the ever-popular Vasona Lake and Hellyer parks, and hillside parks such as Ed Levin, Rancho San Antonio, Almaden Quicksilver, Mt. Madonna, Anderson Reservoir and the newly-enlarged Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch. This park system includes almost 45,000 acres encompassing over 260 miles of regional trails and 10 reservoirs – offering traditional water- and land-based recreational activities such as hiking, picnicking, boating, camping and bicycling. County Parks also offers unique activities such as off-road motorcycling, sport shooting practice, archery, golf, flycasting, hang gliding and bicycle racing.

The County Park Charter funds a variety of programs, including:

- ***An Active Acquisition Program*** - during the last 10 years, 6,500 acres of new parkland has been added to your County Park system, including 3,600 acres (and 14 new miles of multi-use trails) opened in May 2005 at the Coyote Bear-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.
- ***A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Program*** - dedicated to the protection, preservation and restoration of the County Park system's unique and varied natural areas.
- ***Three Interpretive Centers*** – all opened in the past decade to inspire and educate our school children and the general public on the County's rich cultural and natural history: Chitactac Heritage County Park, the Mining Museum at Almaden Quicksilver, and the Bernal Ranch at Santa Teresa.
- ***A Dynamic Volunteer Program*** - over 1,400 volunteers donate almost 35,000 hours annually to help efficiently manage park resources, and receive meaningful opportunities for personal growth and community connections.
- ***Many Valuable Partnerships with Community Organizations*** - including, the Youth Science Institute, Via Services (Camp Costanoan), Wildlife Rescue of Silicon Valley, Girl Scouts of America, Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and American Youth Hostel.
- ***Leadership in Planning and Building the County's Regional Trail Network*** - including the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Bay Trail and the Juan Bautista deAnza National Historic Trail.
- ***Popular Recreational Activities*** – appealing programs accessible to all cultural, ethnic, age and economic groups at a reasonable cost.

#### **Who manages the Park Charter Fund?**

Under the guidance of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the ***Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department*** is responsible for the management of the Park Charter Fund. Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year in service, County Parks recently completed a comprehensive Strategic Plan which can be viewed on the Department's website – [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). The plan, developed through an extensive public outreach process, reflects the long-term community vision for County Parks. As part of that vision, the Park Charter Fund must be maintained as an essential foundation to assure the health and vibrancy of the County Park system.

Formal Endorsements Received for the Park Charter Amendment, 4/20/06

Acterra  
Almaden Valley Community Association  
Audubon Society of Santa Clara Valley  
Bay Area Open Space Council  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
Bear Flag Foundation  
California Apartment Association/Tri-County  
California Native Plant Society - Santa Clara Valley Chapter  
City of Campbell  
City of Cupertino  
City of Gilroy  
City of Palo Alto  
City of San Jose  
City of Saratoga  
Committee for Green Foothills  
Congressman Mike Honda  
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren  
Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens  
Friends of Santa Teresa County Park  
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail  
Friends of the Foothills  
Girl Scouts of America  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara County  
Mexican Heritage Plaza Corporation  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
NAACP  
New Almaden Community Club, Inc.  
New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association  
Northside Neighborhood Association  
Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)  
Peninsula Open Space Trust  
PEO  
Quicksilver Endurance Riders  
Quicksilver Running Club  
Responsible Off-Road Mountain Peddlers (ROMP)  
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Clara County Deputy Sheriffs' Association  
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association  
Santa Clara County League of Conservation  
Santa Clara County League of Women Voters  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority  
Santa Clara County Park Rangers' Association  
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission  
Santa Clara County Volunteer Coordinating Council  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
SEIU, Local 715  
Sheriff Laurie Smith  
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association  
Sierra Club - Loma Prieta Chapter  
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
Silicon Valley Land Conservancy  
South County Democratic Club  
Special Districts Association  
Town of Los Gatos  
Youth Science Institute  
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association

Yes On Parks! Honorary Co-Chairs

Pat Dando, *President, San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce*  
Mary Davey, *Board member, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District*

Yes On Parks! Working Committee Leadership

Garnetta Annable, *YOP Executive Director & Co-Chair & Board member, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority*  
Kitty Monahan, *YOP Co-Chair, former Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commissioner*  
Larry Ames, *YOP Treasurer, former Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commissioner*